

Washington Sentinel.

BEVERLEY TUCKER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 1856.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.
FOR PRESIDENT,
JAMES BUCHANAN,
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,
OF KENTUCKY.

NOTICE.
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE ROOMS,
July 5, 1856.

State executive committees, county and city clubs and associations, organized to promote the election of the Democratic nominees for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, will address their communications to Hon. CHARLES J. FAULKNER, of Virginia, Chairman of the National Democratic Resident Committee, Washington city, D. C. Democratic papers throughout the United States are requested to copy the above notice. By order of the Committee.

"WE DRAW THE LINE THERE."

In one of Dickens's inimitable descriptions we remember the scene in which, while the barber is dressing the hair of the little Misses Kenwigs, a Coal-heaver comes in, when a dialogue ensues:

"You won't get shaved here, my man."
"Why not?" said the Coal-heaver.
"We don't shave gentlemen in your line," remarked the young proprietor.

"Why, I see you a shaving of a baker when I was looking through the window last week," said the Coal-heaver.

"It's necessary to draw the line somewhere, my fine feller," replied the principal. "We draw the line there. We can't go beyond bakers. If we was to get any lower than bakers our customers would desert us, and we might shut up shop. You must try some other establishment, sir. We couldn't do it here."

This reminds us forcibly of the candidates and nominees of the several conventions for the Presidency and Vice Presidency.

In the good old times, when patriotism and wisdom, high political attainments, and undoubted adherence to the Constitution, moral worth and devotion to principle, that knew no variances nor shadow of changing, were the only passports to preferment, such men as Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson and Polk, were elected by the people, and the country prospered and was happy. But when political parties began to pick up men for availability, for military fame, because they were so obscure that nothing was known of their antecedents, and therefore nothing could be said against them, the race of little men began to grow great by degrees, until we fear at last they will become "forcibly feeble." And then every coal-heaver began to say, "Didn't I see you a shaving of a baker when I was looking through the window last week, and why may not I have my face washed here, too?"

Now, forsooth, every adventurer who plants a flag on the Rocky Mountains, or has become famous, or infamous, by attempting to set up "higher law" above the Constitution, and who endeavors to tear down and trample the flag of the Union under his feet, expects not only to be permitted to peep through the window, but to occupy the highest places in the gift of the people, and, from his elevated position, only the more to display ignorance, and arrogance, and to prove his fitness to destroy rather than to beautify and adorn.

It is time the people should say "we don't shave gentlemen in your line." When a sage who has devoted a life time to the study of the science of Government, and has, by devotion to the honored principles of our fathers, proved himself true and worthy of trust, presents himself, or is presented by men who show by word and deed their attachment to the Union, to the whole country, North and South, and who avow national sentiments, equality of rights, fundamental principles long established and cherished, we may devote ourselves to elevate such a sage to the highest office in our gift. But when a man of straw is set up by himself, or by men whose patriotism is limited to a geographical line, who believe one-half of these great States are peopled by moral lepers, so deeply dyed in sin, that they are unfit to be associated with—in religion, unfit to kneel side by side by aid as they roll up their hypocritical eyes in sacrilegious solemnity, unfit to occupy positions of trust or of honor, which they alone in their imagined purity have the right, the absolute right to enjoy; that they, disqualified for distinction, because they were born in a land where slavery exists, and although that slavery was forced upon them against their will, and though now it is so interwoven into their systems and institutions, so intimately connected and blended with every fibre of the body politic, that it cannot be disconnected even though they desired it, without severing every artery and vein, and emptying the heart of the blood that nourishes and animates it. We say that when men thus berated and endorsed are presented to the people, they should say "it's necessary to draw the line somewhere my fine feller." "We draw the line there." We can't go beyond Whigs. As for these Know-nothings, men who frequent culverts, and dodge into holes and corners, with dark lanterns, "who being themselves fallible and uninspired men, have assumed dominion over the faith of others, setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking, as the only true and infallible," "proscribing citizens as unworthy the public confidence by laying upon them an incapacity of being called to offices of trust and emolument, unless they profess or renounce this or that religious opinion"—who would "suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion," and would fetter the mind, instead of leaving it free as God created it—who would deny to the oppressed of other lands, even after a re-

nunciation of allegiance to every other Government the rights of citizens in this, and forever bar the door against elevating the wise and good to preferment, because of accident of birth and difference of clime, "we must draw the line there."

As for these Black Republicans, men who would destroy the Constitution, and pull this fair fabric about our heads to carry out Utopian dreams, which, while they do not benefit themselves, carry desolation to the homes and the families of their brothers; who would rend the veil of the temple in twain, and bring utter darkness upon the land, we say "you must try some other establishment, sir? We couldn't do it here."

We have no fears for the result of the coming election. The people of this wide-spread country have judgments too discriminating to take up men like Fremont, or Stockton, or Gerritt Smith, or Fred Douglass. They have no idea of promoting such men as Donelson and Dayton and Johnston. "They don't shave gentlemen in that line." And as for Fillmore, they tried him. His own party tried him in their own Convention while he was still President and repudiated him.

We believe Mr. BUCHANAN is worthy of the position we seek to bestow upon him. He is one of the old stock—full of years and full of honors—with experience in the affairs of Government—an intimate knowledge of our whole policy, foreign and domestic—sage in council, prudent in difficulties, just, sagacious, wise—having a thorough acquaintance with the best men who have held a conspicuous place in the public esteem—knowing who and how to select—not intolerant—candid in argument, clear, perspicuous, generous. He will secure the confidence of all good men, because he is unblemished in private character, of high moral principle, and worthy, every way worthy. He will administer the Government by the compass and chart which has saved the good ship heretofore and will ever preserve her while timbers endure or may be repaired. "We draw the line there."

THE CONSTITUTION THE SUPREME LAW.

"The Constitution, and the laws which shall be made in pursuance thereof, * * * shall be the supreme law of the land."

Such is the language of the Constitution, which was ordained and established, in order to form a more perfect union between the members of the Confederation of the thirteen old States of America.

It ordains a supremacy in the Constitution over all law, and subordinates law to its authority. It gives supremacy to laws, which "pursue" the Constitution, but to none other; and by the supremacy which it establishes for the Constitution, it annuls, as acts of usurpation, all laws which are not made in pursuance of the Constitution.

We maintain the Constitution as the supreme law of the land, above all legislation. That which it sanctions, is sacred; that which it does not warrant, is legislative lawlessness.

It is in our view the peculiar mission of the Democratic party to assert and to maintain the supremacy of the Constitution over all legislation. The history of its action upon the slavery question for twenty years has been the record of its struggle against foes without and weak friends within its fold, to stand upon one platform, not the shifting sands of legislative enactments, but the solid rock basis of the Constitution. Others may affirm the sacredness of so-called compromises, which trench upon the rights secured by the Constitution; others may bewail the repeal of the Missouri restriction north of 36° 30'; others may chime in with our enemies, and, denouncing its "want of wisdom and foresight," imagine its origin in the personal ambition of its gallant and distinguished author; but the Democracy, without fear or compromise, condemns all "compromises" not warranted by the Constitution, as "no law," and announces the restoration of its sacred compromises as the only hope of a union of peace and order, and law.

Can it be believed now—would it be believed by Jefferson and Madison, were they restored to life—that the howl of rage and grief which ascends from the dens of Black Republicanism, and is more faintly echoed in the deprecations of the Everetts and Fillmores of the North, is occasioned by a simple repeal of a law proscriptive of the South, and the enactment in its place of the law of the Constitution? Is it scarcely credible that any man of common intelligence and common honesty would oppose, with embittered hate, the restoration of that sectional equality, under the ægis of the Constitution, which had been destroyed by a mere act of Congress?

And yet the whole canvass is staked upon the "want of wisdom and foresight" repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the enactment of the just and equal law of 1854.

Was the Missouri Compromise just? Had not the South paid her proportion of the purchase money for Louisiana? If she bore her share of the burden, is it just to exclude her from her share of the advantage? We appeal to every northern conscience, if one cent of northern capital, one sinew of northern labor, one branch of northern industry had, by direction or indirection, been shut out from one acre of the French or Mexican acquisitions, would you have submitted? Would you have pronounced it just? To take your money to buy me property, is of the essence of tyranny. Though I may have the power to do it, it is flagrant injustice in the sight of God and man.

How, then, was it just to buy Territory with the money of the North and South, and permit the North to choose anywhere within it, for planting its industry, and developing its power, while the South with its labor, its social habits, its industry, were excluded from the larger part of it? Instead of "establishing justice," it "established injustice," as the law of the land; and placed this unjust legislation in that supremacy, which was due alone to the Constitution.

Its inequality was manifest, and in a union of equals, established by equals, the creation of inequality must not only be unjust, but is the proof of unwarlike exercise of power.

How can the creature of equals make its creators unequal? If the thing formed may not say to him who formed it, "why hast thou made me thus?" how shall the thing formed attempt to form anew its creator? That which

is impious in religion is monstrous and absurd in politics.

The power of Congress, the trustee, to shut out one of those States who constituted the trust, from the full and complete enjoyment of the trust property, has always been contested, has never been established, and has been finally overthrown. The statement of the proposition is its own refutation. Under our system, all power is delegated to Government, for purposes which concern not the Government, but those who delegated the power. Hence powers must be used with respect to the purposes in view, the equal rights and interests of the States confederating. If they are wielded against those of the smallest State, it is an abuse of trust, unauthorized, and condemned by the supreme law of the land.

We have indicated that the Missouri Compromise unequally, unjustly, and (now without fear of successful contradiction add,) without the slightest warrant of power in the Constitution, but against its spirit and meaning, excluded the slaveholding citizens of the South from the right of emigration with their property to a large part of the French acquisition, and devoted such portion to those who were not and would not be slaveholders. It proscribed slaveholders, (whose rights and equality the Constitution recognized,) on account of their slaveholding, from the enjoyment of territory, which their money had bought, and a slaveholding President had secured to the country.

Was it just? Was it right? Was it constitutional? Was it honest?

It was nothing but the Wilmot proviso, limited arbitrarily by the line of 36° 30'. Mr. Fillmore seems to think the Black Republican idea of sectional candidates will logically result in proscribing the South from the offices of government; and yet pronounces the repeal of the Missouri Compromise "want of wisdom and foresight"—and a pandora's box! Does he forget what it did? It shut the South from new homes—she had bought— from new fields of labour, which her own great soil had acquired—and cast scorn upon the Southern home, and Eastern industry, by forbidding her to transfer either to the pure atmosphere and fair land, which would taint and disgrace!

The Democracy of the country repealed this unjust, unequal, unconstitutional law. It removed the brand of inequality from the South, and gave her equal rights with the North—nothing more, nothing less. "It formed a more perfect Union"—because it restored peace and insured domestic tranquillity; it established justice, and ordained, again, the Constitution as the supreme law of the land—supremacy in the States, and in the Territories—just and equal in both—to all sections, and subordinating all unjust compromises to its supreme authority.

Let those rave who will against the repeal, and against the Kansas bill! In the language of a leader, we are prepared for any storm which fanaticism may bring against our position. Our open foes may howl, and their echoes may speak of recklessness, and deprecate the Abolition furor which emerges from this box of pandora—we fear not the verdict of the people.

The Democracy will not, cannot fail! It is founded upon a rock—the Constitution—the supreme law of the land. Its enemies cannot prevail against it. It will overwhelm all isms, and in its triumph will re-establish in the hearts of the people of the confederated States, the principles of that equal compact, without which the Union is lost—but upon which alone it can be perpetuated.

None of our readers can forget the time when that wise old man and pure patriot, John C. Calhoun, for the last time addressed his country through the Senate, in tones of warning, and deplored with the prophetic fervor of the dying, the results which must flow from the sectional distraction of the country. It was then that he proclaimed what all would see, that the several strands which bound together the two sections of the Union were becoming day by day weaker and weaker—that the social and fraternal feeling which had so long existed was in danger of being converted into deadly hate—that even the strong tie of religion was not proof against the strain, and that when the political strand should give way and parties be formed upon a purely sectional basis, disunion and ruin must inevitably result.

Now, true to prophecy, the time has come when these very evils are in danger of being consummated. The recent action of the Black Republican convention, by the nomination of two candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, from the North, because they are of the North, and have imbibed the poison of fanaticism, has shown a tendency to this sectionalism so deeply to be deplored. The nomination by the American party of Millard Fillmore, with a platform rejected by the South, and the adoption of which caused the Southern members to secede from the Philadelphia Council, is scarcely more likely to quell this sectional agitation, and to restore peace to the country. There is but one nominee in the field who can be truly said to represent, irrespective of section, the people and the interests of the whole country.

With a unanimity never before equalled, JAMES BUCHANAN received the nomination of the Cincinnati Convention. The impending danger sunk for a time preferences, and private ends, and patriots from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, united to do honor to a man who had proven himself worthy of that honor, and by his election to heal dissensions, and restore tranquillity. With a term of service, and a variety of service unequalled by any statesman in the Union, Mr. BUCHANAN comes before the country in opposition to a man who has had forty days experience in the Senate, and after so brief a term failed to receive the renewed confidence of his State by a re-election. With an experience of forty years, marked by an active and useful career, and by an unswerving devotion to the interests of his country, Mr. BUCHANAN is arrayed in opposition to a man whose only merit is that he has borne, with exemplary fortitude a trying journey over the Rocky Mountains, and after proving the strength of his own constitution, is now united with a party which would feign prove the weak-

ness of the Constitution of the Union. With a strong devotion to State Rights, derived from a life-long devotion to the State of his birth, and the arena of his earlier career, Mr. BUCHANAN is arrayed in opposition to a man who for the most part has been a wanderer without a home, or who, at least, is said to know no home in any State. It is impossible that any one so reared and so situated can feel that same jealous devotion to the rights of the States, or the same appreciation of the character of the Constitution, as one who has made those rights his dearest object, and that Constitution his profoundest study.

But more than this—should Mr. BUCHANAN be elevated to the Presidency his own enlarged experience in statesmanship, his perfect familiarity with all the operations of government, his wide acquaintance with the utility and knowledge of statesmen throughout the Union will ensure a wise, prudent, and constitutional administration. Should Col. Fremont, on the contrary, receive the higher honor to which he aspires, he must needs gather around him, without any sufficient knowledge of their character and views, a cabinet of advisers, self-seeking and corrupt, who, conscious of his ignorance, and glorying in his weakness, will soon snatch the reins of government from his hands, or if they—

Ever let him hold the reins,
Will show him the way to go.

Slow of comprehension, indeed, must the people of the United States be, if they have not yet learned the useful lesson that an ignorant President, even with high virtue and patriotism, is unworthy to be trusted. Whether is the man who fought and gained the battle of Buena Vista, or the man who trudged the snows of the Rocky mountains, more worthy the confidence of his countrymen? Has he, who by the success of his genius and his arms gave California to the Union, achieved less for his country than he who amassed an immense fortune by speculating in Spanish-grants there? And yet, who can look back to the brief administration of Zachary Taylor without regretting that the brave old man should have been taken from the field to the Cabinet, and that his laurel garland should have been exchanged for the civic wreath? And what more can be expected from John C. Fremont? With ignorance just as great, with a patriotism not half so pure, with achievements not one tithe so glorious, with advisers even more corrupt, representing a fanatical section rather than a great party, it were vain to expect greater success, or purity, or wisdom.

Such, then, is the issue made up between JAMES BUCHANAN and JOHN C. FREMONT. Nor can we see how any lover of his country, be he from the North or from the South, can hesitate between the two. We ask not the support and co-operation of those who, with impious hand, would aim a blow at the very existence of our institutions. But we do appeal in all candor and earnestness to patriots and Union-loving men, North and South, to unite with the Democracy in the support of a nomination, on the success of which depends the existence of the Confederacy. Our views, so often expressed, are now fully realized, that, with a few exceptional cases, the only soundness to be found at the North is within the body of the Democratic party; and to the success of that party in the present contest can we alone look for a restoration of peace, for the protection of our rights, and for the preservation of the Union.

The Life of Fremont—By Charles W. Upham, Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

"This is a life worth living, worth writing and worth reading. It is full of events, full of romance, full of results." John Charles Fremont has written his name on the everlasting hills, "rock ribbed, and ancient as the sun; and given it to 'the flowing streams that lucid flow forever.'" He has unraveled to the knowledge of the present and future generations the magnificent geography of a virgin continent; and turned the golden streams of unknown Sierras into all the channels of the commercial world. He is the hero of a more glorious epic than Homer ever sang; and has braved more deadly dangers than the victor of a hundred battles. It is not strange, therefore, that while the heart of the American people is thrilling at the story of his adventures, a feeling of personal admiration should be awakened, which insists upon rewarding the living hero with the highest honors in the gift of the nation.

"Courage in man, like chastity in woman, is the virtue of virtues. It compels the homage of the world; and wins the protecting favor of Heaven. No one can read the life of Fremont, and resist the conviction that he is one of the bravest, and most death-daring men that ever perilled his life in the pursuit of a purpose, or in the vindication of a principle. And all his sufferings and dangers have been encountered, not in the cause of war, but of science; not amid the excitement of the battle field, with the glittering quiver of the conqueror, to inflame the intoxicating passion of glory; but for away in the lonely and perilous deserts of the Mediterranean mountains, where his comrades were hourly falling at his side, pierced by the terrible pangs of hunger; the icy breath of 'f' &c., &c., in the same strain.

Oh Lud! This is truly a gorgeous reflexion of the forepart of the kangaroo, from the New York Mirror! We know not whether to admire the high falation nonsense, or the total disregard of earthly realities most. If the Mirror writes thus of John Charles, what a splendid picture he could draw of Jack the Giant Killer! We commend him to this last theme for a further exercise of his extraordinary talent for jargonery!

"John Charles Fremont has written his name on the everlasting hills, rock-ribbed, and ancient as the sun," and given it to "the flowing streams that lucid flow forever!" Mercy on us, what a generous act! The Mirror admits that this portion of the kangaroo has not encountered dangers and sufferings in the cause of war! and this is of a truth, so— but they have been dedicated to "science!" In another part of our paper, under the head of "The Man of Straw," we will see how true is this last. We should not be surprised to find this wonderful hero of the "MEDITERRANEAN mountains" discovered to be a mighty admiral in the Mediterranean sea! Mr. Mirror you promise well in the Bombastes Furioso school! We will shortly show you how very "full of romance" is the life of your precious prodigy!

The Chinese seem to think dancing a useless fatigue. When Commodore Anson was at Canton, the officers of the Centurion had a ball upon some court holiday. While they were dancing, a Chinese, who surveyed the operation, said softly to one of the party, "Why don't you let your servants do this for you?"

Senator Sumner to be a Morgan until after the Election.

It has now become evident that the game of the opposition is to have Mr. Sumner "play sick" until after the election. The Express, of this city, which has sympathized with Mr. Sumner, has received a private letter from Washington putting them on the guard. It says:

"I know that you and your press have sympathized with, and protected Sumner from the allegations made, that he was shamming sickness, or that his friends were lying about him. The Express has warmly defended him, as if a Black Republican journal—it may be for old acquaintance sake; but be on your guard; don't be duped. There is cheating somewhere."

Senator Sumner himself is a brilliant orator, a dashing rhetorician, a sparkling fancy man, a Chesterfieldian gentleman, and a scholar; but he is a man of no mettle, and no stuff—no stamina—and of no real use, in public or private life, except for party purposes. There are able men about him, who would freely use him only as "a good enough Morgan for the election;" but that he would die for their benefit I have no idea. Nevertheless, they have been playing his imagination with all sorts of suggestions, insinuations, and misgivings; and they make him really believe his head is in peril. Indeed, he is just such a man as can thus be frightened to death, through his fancy. You have read of French experiments of a man being led to death—in fancy—when the victim had not lost a drop of blood. Sumner's susceptibility is justly of that character. The unscrupulous men that have him in charge for election purposes are playing this game—even while he is on your guard, and I will write you further.

This letter, from a gentleman we well know, is all we know of this matter. The editors of the Express do largely and freely sympathize with Mr. Sumner, and have so expressed themselves, publicly and privately—notwithstanding the ferocity of his rhetoric—but they do not feel it a duty to withhold this extract from a letter—for there is too much in truth, in that description of Mr. Sumner's character, which compares him to the man who thought he was led to death, on the representation of friends, when he had not lost a drop of blood.—Editors of Express.

SOUTHERN TRADE.

A movement is on foot at the North, by which the South may carry on their commerce with the North intelligently—that is, that the South shall be made acquainted with the names of those who respect their rights, and the names of those who seek to oppress the South, and rob her of her interest in the public domain.

It would certainly be more agreeable to the people of the South in all their dealings to give a preference to men who propose to deal justly with them in the important matters of State and individual rights over those who avow a purpose to deny their rights.

It would seem very natural that the first class would deal with them more fairly and honestly than the second class, which is avowedly inimical to the interests of the South.

We have received a pamphlet, in which this matter is put into shape. A request is attached to it, for information from all quarters favorable to the project. All information to be addressed to William S. Rand, New York city.

The Republican Party.

Senator Wadsworth, of Buffalo, in a speech made their recently before a Buchanan club, took occasion to say, that

"No Republican has ever heard from me one word that could justify him in saying that I intended to co-operate with that party of passion, prejudice, and disunion. What is the position of this party? Twelve States were excluded from the deliberations of the Philadelphia Convention; fourteen States cannot submit to its dictation. It is not and cannot be a national party. It is sectional and fanatical."

From Mexico.

The steamship Texas arrived at New Orleans, July 12, from Vera Cruz the 8th instant. The Spanish fleet had left Vera Cruz. President Comandante had decided for the sale of all the lands belonging to the church and other religious corporations. The new constitution and church property decree were much applauded. A new State is to be formed under the constitution, called the Valley of Mexico.

Advices from Guatemala state that the advance-guard of the army arrived at Santa Anna on the 11th ultimo, and was cordially received. It was reported that Colonel Gomez and other ex-officers of the Mexican army had gone to Guatemala.

Hostilities had commenced by Leon and Chihuahua against Tamaulipas.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE TO EGYPT.

We are requested to state, that the British postage charge on letters between the United Kingdom and Egypt, whether sent via Southampton or via Marseilles, has been reduced to sixpence (12 cents) the half ounce, and therefore the single rate of letter postage between the United States and Egypt will be for the future 33 cents via Southampton, and 43 cents via Marseilles, instead of the rates heretofore charged. The postage must in all cases be pre-paid.

The Opinion of a Political Friend.

One of the Pennsylvania delegates in the Black Republican convention had the manliness to take open and strong grounds against the nomination of Fremont. After stating that the Whigs and conservatives of Pennsylvania could not and would not vote for Fremont, he said:

"No, sir, the people of Pennsylvania must have a man who is a statesman, which Fremont is not. They cannot recognize the fact that Fremont lived ten days buried deep under a snow-drift, and that he planted the American flag on the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains, as special qualifications for the Presidency of the United States. You talk of antecedents; why, sir, you insult the intelligence of the people of this great country when you insinuate that they will be satisfied with stories of mere adventure, as the friends of your candidate plant his pretensions upon."

From the Philadelphia North American.

"These very criminals who have been pounced upon so furiously in San Francisco, are graduates of New York and Philadelphia. Ned McGowan, who he was a police man in this city, was convicted, and sentenced to two years imprisonment, for a most remarkable bank robbery. He was for years the perpetrator of unparalleled felonies in Moyamensing, and the same courses are still pursued by some of his successors. Yankee Sullivan and his confidants did things of the same sort in New York. The 'patent ballot-box,' over which the Vigilance Committee has made such a noise, turns out to have been invented in the latter city."

Is that so? We thought all the villainy in this country emanated from the South.

BERKLEY SPRINGS.

BERKLEY SPRINGS, MORGAN CO., VA.,
July 7, 1856.

MR. EDITOR: At this delightful retreat I have been for the past week. I promised to write you how I liked it, and who and what I saw. When I think, however, of your hard fate in being shut up in that most uncomfortable of all places, in the dog days especially, an editorial sanctum, I do not feel that it is kind to furnish you such a contrast as my sojourn here will present. But you are a philosopher, or ought to be, if you are not; and I will give you *curante calamo*, an account of my first week at Berkley.

By the way, it is an innovation that I am half inclined to quarrel with "mine host" of the Springs concerning, that the old designation of this resort should have been changed for the present one.

In old and better times, it was called "Bath," and was the favorite summer retreat of the first people of the land. Generals Washington, Gates, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and many others of scarcely less celebrity as far back as seventy years, purchased lots and passed all or a portion of their summers at "Bath." Many came from far distant States, and in those primitive times brought their tents, and with their families enjoyed the health-restoring properties of its valuable waters.

Indeed, there are no waters in the Old Dominion that have so fully retained their reputation as the water here. As a bath for health and pleasure, it is unsurpassed. In addition to the single baths, themselves numerous and capacious, there have been constructed two "Pool Baths;" one for the gentlemen, the other for the ladies, that are most luxurious. Only think of it! a bath sixty feet in length, and twenty-five in width, and five feet deep, of the most beautiful pellucid water, where at all hours of the day and night you can refresh and invigorate yourself! You have here, too, what is rare at public places, a beautiful grove, so thickly set with shade trees that there is no portion of the day that you cannot be protected from the sun's rays without having to betake yourself to your room or the lounging places of the hotel.

But I now come to speak to you of the large and commodious hotel and its gentlemanly proprietor. Of the former, it will suffice to say, that it is in all respects most comfortable, with large piazzas running all around it, and opening upon the beautiful grove of which I have spoken. It will accommodate with comfort about five hundred guests, a number that are certain to be here at a late period of the season. Of Colonel Strother, we cannot speak in terms of too much praise. Himself a gentleman of education and refinement, he understands well what is due to gentlemen and their families. You have here all the liberty that a hotel affords, with a feeling of home, ease, and comfort, I have never seen elsewhere. As to the table, I am not afraid to assert that it is not only the very best public table I ever saw, but really there is no gentleman's table in Virginia superior to this. This is literally true; and those that don't say so, who have tried it, are not used to half as good doings at home. But I must tell you how we got here, for its easy access is one of the best features about it. You leave Washington at six in the morning, in the Baltimore train, get a nice breakfast at the relay with our old friend Miller, formerly of Washington, take the western cars on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to the Hancock station, and thence in a stage over a delightful road, only FIVE MILES, to this place to three o'clock dinner, or you can leave at 4 p. m. and reach here at late bed time, making two trains a day to the Springs. Besides this, there is a telegraphic station within two and a half miles of us, where, if it was kept by efficient and civil people, you could get a message to and fro, but we are sorry to say, from experience, you are not apt to get much satisfaction. Thus much for the Springs and its conveniences.

Now for the company, amusements, &c.

There are present here about one hundred visitors, which is a larger number than usual at this period of the season. It is a curious fact, that in this number, every section of the country is represented. Gentlemen from Philadelphia, New York, Richmond, Natchez, New Orleans, Baltimore, and Washington, are already here with their families, and most of them for the whole season. I have rarely seen in intelligence, refinement, and agreeability such a company. So entirely, too, is the absence of all form and ceremony, that it seems more like one family, than the assemblage of persons, who but a few days since here, comparatively strangers to each other. Riding, walking, ten-pins, billiards, dancing, form the principal sources of amusement, all of which are entered into with a zest and abandon, that is really refreshing. But I fear my letter will be too long, considering the pressure upon your columns at this time, so, with a reference to the celebration of the glorious day of independence, I will draw it to a close.

Early on the morning of the Fourth,

the busy hands of the fair ladies were seen festooning with evergreens the piazzas, and decorating with great taste the large ball room for the celebration.

Who was to be the orator of the day, and who the reader of the Declaration of Independence, was soon resolved by the ladies, who chose Mr. Thomas E. Buchanan, lately of California, for the first, and Mr. Francis Peters, of Philadelphia for the second. These gentlemen were too gallant to decline the enviable honors from such a source, notwithstanding the short time given them for preparation.

At the appointed hour, there were assembled in the hall a large auditory, our own members being greatly increased by the citizens of the town, who had gotten wind of our patriotic intents. In a few moments the music heralded the approach of the procession that had been formed to escort the orator and reader to the rostrum which had been erected and appropriately adorned with stars and stripes, the American eagle, wreaths, and wild flowers.

As soon as the music ceased, Mr. Peters rose and prefaced his admirable and impressive reading of the Declaration with a few eloquent and patriotic sentiments.

Upon the conclusion of the national air "Hail Columbia," Mr. Buchanan was introduced to the assemblage. It was generally supposed that, from the want of timely notice, we would only be regaled with a few remarks from the

orator of the day. How agreeably, however, were we surprised by the delivery of one of the most beautiful addresses to which it has ever been our pleasure to listen. It was so free from the hackneyed common-places of Fourth of July orations, that it would have been admired if only for its originality. But it was replete with passages of fervid eloquence, and the striking contrast which he drew between the past and present condition of our country, was well arranged and able. It was, in truth, an intellectual treat which all enjoyed, for it abounded in wit, sarcasm, and learning, that showed the speaker to possess a rare versatility of oratorical power. Nor did the Black Republican vandals escape his withering rebuke. We have never heard a more annihilating philippic from any quarter. After the oration, which occupied about forty minutes, the procession was reformed, in which the ladies and children smiled, and, marching to the stirring music provided for the occasion, the assemblage dispersed, all delighted with the successful impromptu celebration at Berkley Springs of our National Independence.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

The George Law arrived at New York, July 14. She brings the following news:

The George Law connected at the Isthmus with the steamer Sonora, which brought down \$2,133,000 in gold. The Sonora spoke on the 25th ult. the steamer John L. Stephens bound up.

The New York mails and passengers of the 20th ult. arrived on the 1st of July in the steamship Golden Age.

The George Law passed the Illinois on the 10th.

The steamship Sierra Nevada left San Francisco on the 20th ult. for San Juan with 400 passengers and \$125,000 in specie. She took 200 recruits and 75 tons of provisions for Gen. Walker.

The aloop-of-war Decatur from Paget's Sound, arrived at San Francisco, June 12th. The only news of interest from San Francisco relates to the Vigilance Committee, which at last accounts were still in session. Their forces consist of four thousand infantry, five hundred cavalry, five companies of artillery, and thirty-five pieces of ordnance. These troops are drilled at several armories in different quarters of the city, and occasionally appear in the streets for regimental drill.

Gen. Wool refused to loan the Governor arms and ammunition on the ground that he was not authorized to act in the premises except upon the order of the President.

The Committee have thrown up a breast-work of sand bags in front of their buildings, and guarded all the approaches with cannon. Brass field-pieces are mounted on the roofs, ready for instant action day and night.

Several additional criminals have been convicted by the revolutionary tribunal of the Vigilance Committee, and banished from the State, and sent to sea on board foreign bound ships.

The following had been arrested and were awaiting trial: Thomas B. Cunningham, the murderer of Col. Weymouth, of New Orleans; Thomas Mullory, highwayman; Bill Lewis, ballot-box stuffer, and banished from the State, and sent to sea on board foreign bound ships.

An immense mass meeting was held in San Francisco on the 16th ult. by the friends of the Committee. Speeches were made by Baile Peyton, Hon. Wm. Doer, and others, fully endorsing the action of the Committee.

The Committee had issued an address to the public, and also published the constitution of the organization.